

CLSC "Light & Variable"

March 2025



*Cat's Pajamas is still in the family!
Its new owner is Doug Collins.*

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Commodore's Cockpit by Chuck Bowers



Greetings to all of CLSC,

At this writing the racing season is just three weeks away. It is time to take stock of your boats and safety equipment. What better way than participating in the "Beer Can" Fun Race on March 15 to shake out the sails, make sure batteries are

charged, winches turn, lines and halyards are in serviceable condition and motors start. Before leaving the dock, run down your list of safety equipment, PFD's, extinguisher and anything else required for lake sailing. Let's not forget the social events! The objective is to have a fun and SAFE sailing season!

There is an exciting development that I am happy to report and that is the Club will soon have a greater footprint in the digital world with the implementation of a dedicated website. It is under development, but I see it as a tool to make it easier to find us and encourage experienced sailors and those wanting to learn to sail to come join us. In addition, there will be a Members Only section that will become the repository for documents, race results and the newsletter. Many thanks to Bettye for pursuing this project. I am sure the website will serve the club well.

On another note, a By-Laws Review and Policy and Procedures Development Committee has been formed with Doug Collins as the chair. The way we conduct business is somewhat loose and ill defined. The goal is to ensure the By-Laws are working for us and to set forth in writing what is expected from the Commodore, Vice Commodore, the Board and standing committees. Once implemented, they will be a guide for those who are elected and appointed ensuring continuity with changes in personnel. They will also serve to inform the general membership what can be expected from those entrusted to represent the club's interests and activities.

I look forward to seeing all on the docks and on the water.

Chuck Bowers
CLSC Commodore

Nautical Décor for Pavilion

The Program and Events Committee is seeking nautical décor decorations to spruce up the pavilion for the upcoming spring season.

If you have some items you would like to donate, you can bring them to the pavilion or contact Jackie Hogan, Chair of Program and Events.



By Isaac Moody

SAILING!!!!

TAKES ME AWAY!!!!

This was blaring over the car's speakers as my family was on our way to the marina for the first family sail of the year. It's every father's dream to torture his teenage daughter with uncool music, and I don't know any music more uncool than that of Christopher Cross. As a sailor, I have avoided this stereotypical song in favor of the perhaps more authentic sailing tunes of Jimmy Buffett, but thanks to a yacht rock documentary on HBO Max, I was ready to go down the over-produced adult contemporary rabbit hole.

We arrive at the marina. Late. Our friends are already there. I had a terrible day at work earlier in the day. The work day was frantic. I was rushing through the day with the hopes that soon I would be free. As I am starting Axios' diesel engine, I get a call from a coworker. I politely answer as I'm using the glow plugs to heat up the motor that hates the cold. As the cranky motor throbs to life, I quickly get off the phone with my coworker as Chantelle goes to work freeing Axios from her winter prison. At this point, it's not too far to Neverland!

As we are motoring away from the dock, me behind the helm, Chantelle on the foredeck, my daughter Mia and mother-in-law Kelly in the cockpit, I couldn't help but sing **SAILING, TAKES ME AWAY!!!**

At this point these were the only lyrics to the song I knew. Everyone on the boat was cringing, except my son Isaiah. He has better taste than the others. As this was happening, Chantelle hoisted the main sail. We shut the noisy diesel off and let the canvas do its miracles.

The wind was just right for us to sail away down the lake. It was a perfect downwind run, the wind taking us to find serenity. Soon, the sun started to go down, and perhaps fantasy got the best of us, but it was time to turn around and head for the dock. The wind started to pick up. Axios heels over. The skipper and crew felt the wind was right, and we found joy in it. During a particularly hard gust which caused Axios' rail to flirt with the

water, I ask Chantelle if she would like me to reef the headsail. “No, I’m having too much fun,” was her response.

Unfortunately, we found ourselves tied back on the dock talking about how it was like a dream to have the wind carry us. Leaving the lake was hard. But in our minds, I think we knew that someday we would be free.

Axios’ All-Girl Crew!



Racing Reflections and Remarks



by Greg Boggs

- SPRING SERIES UPDATE -

The Spring Series 2025 is just around the corner, and it is time to get prepared for it. The board was presented with three proposals to consider

and vote on at this past February board meeting. The proposal was to choose which rating system to use for the Spring Series. The choices were to use the new Ross Thomas ratings for Spring 2025, revert to the Base Ross Thomas ratings or adapt to the PHRF system. It was discussed that the current Ross Thomas ratings had become skewed and needed to be addressed. After lengthy discussions, it was decided to continue using the Ross Thomas system with the new spring 2025 ratings for the Spring Series. Following that, it was decided to possibly move to the PHRF system for the Fall Series.

The new *US Sailing Rules for 2025-2028* have been published online with the printed copy to be released in the very near future. The changes in the rules are minimal from my perspective and should have little effect on our racing. That having been said, I encourage everyone to get a printed copy to be aware of any rule changes. The changes were published in the past Jan/Feb CLSC newsletter.

I would encourage everyone to get on their boats and do a complete survey of the boat, its equipment and sails. Now is the time to fix any issues well ahead of the first race, which is less than a month away. The water is still cold and algae growth is at a minimum so now would be a good time to clean the bottom of your hull.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Skippers Meeting on Sat., March 29th before the first race.



Programs and Events

by Jackie Hogan

-St. Patrick's- Shakedown Beer Can Race

Ready to chase the rainbow and find the pot of gold at the end, only to find out it's a Miller Highlife tall boy? Well, March 15th is your lucky day.

Join us for the St. Patrick's Day Shakedown Beer Can Race. What is a shakedown, beer can race? It's the best way to knock the cobwebs off your rigging and make sure your crew still knows port from starboard!

We will have a short skippers' meeting in the pavilion at 10:00 am followed by a short, non-points "beer can" race starting at 11:00. After the race we will meet back in the pavilion for some St. Patrick's Day shenanigans. Come out and support the club in our first ever (*as far as I know*) beer can race. You don't want to miss it!!

2025 Spring Series

March 29	Saturday	9:30 AM	Spring Skippers' Meeting
March 29	Saturday	11:00 AM	Spring Series Race #1
April 12	Saturday	11:00 AM	Kirk Wyss Memorial Race
April 26	Saturday	11:00 AM	45 th Commodore's Cup Regatta, Day One
April 27	Sunday	1:00 PM	45 th Commodore's Cup Regatta, Day Two
May 10	Saturday	11:00 AM	Spring Series Race #2
May 24	Saturday	11:00 AM	Spring Series Race #3
June 7	Saturday	11:00 AM	Spring Series Race #4
June 21	Saturday	11:00 AM	Spring Series Race #5 (<i>Summer Sailstice</i>)

Education and Rules



by Greg Boggs

- WINTER BOTTOM JOB REPAIRS -

I along with several other club members pulled our boats this winter to put a fresh bottom on them. Doing this in the winter has its challenges due mostly to weather. Most bottom paints need to be applied when the temperature is at least 50 degrees for six hours. Added to that, at 50 degrees you cannot put another coat of paint on for at least eight hours. Trying to get those windows for several days has indeed been frustrating, as it needs to be without rain or snow. It is finally reaching that point that I can get it done.

Since my boat is a daggerboard boat, I needed to get it up in the air to rest on planks. Many of our boats are fixed keel boats and can rest on the keel with jackstands supporting them on the sides. I got two gantries from Northern Tools along with two electric winches and trolleys. The gantries are rated at 1000 pounds each (*my boat weighs a little less than 2000 pounds*), and the winches are rated at 1800 pounds each. Northern Tools has gantries and winches rated at higher loads as well.

The gantries were placed fore and aft of the hull (*see photos*) with the boat on the trailer. These gantries elevate to twelve feet in height and I raised them to 10 feet. I got tie down straps rated at 3000 pounds each and placed them under the hull as slings and attached them to the winches. I tied the two straps together to prevent them from slipping. Once I raised the boat up off the trailer, I placed four 55-gallon drums, two fore and two aft next to the

boat with eight 2x6 boards (*four fore and four aft*) under the boat. The drums were filled with water to prevent them from shifting. The boat was then lowered onto the planks.



Once the boat was secure on the planks, it was time to light sand the bottom. I used 100 grit sandpaper with a palm sander to prepare the bottom to be painted. After sanding, I wiped the hull down with tack cloth to get all the dust off the bottom. The next step was to tape off the boot stripe. The boat was now ready to be painted.

The bottom of my boat came with Petit Vivid hard bottom paint. It is a very good racing bottom paint, and I decided to continue using Vivid so as not to have a compatibility issue. Since I was painting outside, I decided to use a roller to paint the bottom instead of spray painting it. Vivid needs to be applied with a maximum 3/16 knap smooth roller and needs to be thinned with 10% Petit 120 thinner. Rolling on is a relatively easy process making sure that it goes on in smooth light coats. If you want a very smooth finish, you will need to tip the paint as you go along (*tipping is dipping a good brush in the paint using only the tip of the brush and passing it over the paint just applied in the fore and aft direction. Any brush marks will level out giving a smooth surface*).

It is recommended to apply four coats if you intend to burnish the bottom to get the smoothest surface possible. I burnish using 600 grit wet

and dry paper to the bottom. You can progress using a finer grade of paper to get an even more polished finish. Obviously, once the majority of the bottom has been painted, I need to lift the boat in the slings to paint the areas of the hull that were resting on the boards. Since the area is relatively small I apply only two coats.

Once the bottom is painted, I will wait at least several days before resting it on the trailer. The boat is ready to launch when I choose to do so. Initially, it seemed complicated; however, once I did it I saw that the next time I decided to do a bottom job it would be fairly easy to do. This by far was the best way to do a bottom on my boat if a boat yard is not available. Also, in the long run, cheaper. Do not forget to use ppe's when sanding the bottom as most bottom paints are toxic.



Telltale by Bettye Boggs



CLSC New Website

We are pleased to announce that Cherokee Lake Sailing Club has a new website that is in progress. We hope to be up and running in the coming weeks as we work with Brainstorm Café with the development of the site.

On the website you will be able to access our newsletters, racing information, club membership information, history of the club, club activities *(both racing and social)* and a Learn to Sail page . There will be a page for “Members Only” which requires a sign-in and will act as an interchange of information, ideas, and communication.

Also, at the June 7th race, we will be joined by Lauren Hurdle of the Jefferson County Tourism Dept. and her crew who will be aboard our boats during this race to produce a social media video of our club. They will be creating a place on their website to showcase our club and what the club has to offer to the community.

As you are in the community, please share our information to prospective boaters who may be interested in our club. We will be hosting a “Learn to Sail” and open house in the spring to attract prospective members to our club.

Racing Opportunities



Boats Looking for Crew:

Beets Me – Chuck Bowers, 860-961-4560

Hired Gun – Greg Boggs, 985-788-5623

Nutmeg – Bob Rhea, 703-801-9496

Lucy – Bernie Dail, 865-312-4147

*(If you are looking for crew for the coming racing season,
or if you would like to crew to someone's boat,
please let us know and we will post your requested information.)*

- **BOATS FOR SALE** -

Boston Whaler Harpoon 5.2 / 17-foot day-sailer with a big enough cockpit and ample storage space to also be a day cruiser. The 5.2 has a self-bailing cockpit that works whether the boat is moving or not, no fill ups when on a mooring. 4hp Mariner outboard motor included rattlesnakeblake@bellsouth.net

Greg Boggs – 985-788-5623

PLEASE NOTE THE THE BOGGS' SUNTRACKER WHICH IS CURRENTLY ON THE HOUSEBOAT DOCK, IS NOW "FOR SALE."

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE GIVE GREG A CALL AT 985-788-5623.

